

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are now pending in the application and stand provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory double patenting. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 1-22 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-53 of copending Application No. 10/409,633. The Outstanding Office Action states that the conflicting claims have not yet been patented, however, copending Application No. 10/409,633 has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,998,566.

Applicants enclose herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the outstanding double patenting rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-22 based on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7524.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12 JUN 06

By: 
Kelly K. Burris, Reg. No. 46,361

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
7700 Bonhomme Avenue
Suite 400
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
(314) 726-7500

KKB/lbs